

CATHERINE'S EMBASSY TO FLORENCE

to Siena. Now it seems that the demon has sowed so much, unjustly, in their hearts against me, that I have not wished that sin should be added to sin ; for thereby would the ruin be only increased. I have gone away, with the divine grace ; and I pray the supreme eternal Goodness to pacify and unite and bind your hearts together, one with the other, so in love of charity that neither demon nor creature can ever separate you. Whatever can be done by me for your welfare will I gladly do, even unto death, in spite of demons visible and invisible, who would impede every holy desire. I go away consoled, inasmuch as that is accomplished in me which I set before my heart when I entered this city, never to depart, though I should have to die for it, until I saw you, the children, reconciled with your father, seeing such peril and loss in souls and bodies ; I go away grieving and with sorrow, since I leave the city in such great bitterness. But may eternal God, who has consoled me in the one, console me in the other matter, so that I may see and hear that you are pacified in a good and firm and perfect state, that you may be able to render glory and praise to His name, and not stand under arms with such great affliction. I hope that the sweet clemency of God will turn the eye of His mercy, and fulfil the desire of His servants." *

¹ Unpublished. Appendix, Letter
IV.